

Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District



Conservation Information

SPRING
EDITION
APRIL 2015

26032-C Newt Road
Agri-Civic Center
Albemarle, NC 28001

“Dig It” Secrets of the Soil Smithsonian Exhibit to Come to NC Museum!

Journey into the skin of the earth to discover
the amazing world of soils in “Dig It! The
Secrets of Soil.”



Developed by the Soil Science Society of America and designed by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, this traveling exhibit explores soils and the cultures that connect us to them through interactive displays including cartoons, movies, art and more. Learn how soils sustain our world and why without them life as we know it would not exist. Open May 16 through August 16 — only at The NC Museum of Natural Sciences. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for NC residents. **Find out more at <http://soilscience.info/dig-it/>**



Inside this issue:

Annual Awards Banquet	2
Soil Health Field Day	3
Pond Clinic	4
FSA News	5-6
Area VIII Envirothon	7
Our Sponsors	8

District Board Members

Terry Blalock	Chairman
John Pickler	Vice-Chairman
Jody Smith	Treasurer
Curtis Furr	Supervisor
June Mabry	Supervisor
W. Chester Lowder	Advisor

District and NRCS Staff

Grayson Sarif	Cost Share Technician
Rita Little	Admin/Education Coordinator
Nathan Lowder	District Conservationist
Miranda McDaniel	ATAC Admin. Support Asst.

Season Approaches for No-Till Planting

No-till planting reduces erosion and promotes soil health. Stanly SWCD’s Truax 88 No-Till Drill is designed with three seed boxes that allow for planting native fluffy seeds, clovers, small grains, legumes, and wildflowers. It’s perfect for seeding and reseeding fields and pastures. The District rents the drill for \$10 per acre in Stanly County and \$12 per acre for out of county use. There is a \$25 deposit required and a \$50 minimum charge. Any citizen in Stanly and surrounding counties are eligible to use the No-Till Drill. Call the SWCD office at 704-986-3059 for more information.





Annual Awards Banquet Held February 23rd

Wetlands were the focus of this year's student contest. After dinner, awards were presented to this year's winners. With so many great poster entries from across the county, judging was difficult. Millingport student, Emily Speedling Efird took first place in the 5th grade competition and went on to win third place in the Area VIII competition. Second place winner is Alexis Goode from Badin and third place is Serenity Febus-Hopkins, also from Badin.

Essay winner was sixth grader Tilman Hatley, from North Stanly Middle School. The title was "Wetlands are Wonderful." Tilman later placed first in the Area.

Sixth graders also had the opportunity to enter the Computer Designed Slide Show (PowerPoint) competition. Nichols Melton, also from North Stanly Middle School, took first place with his presentation titled "What in the World Would We Do Without Wetlands?" That PowerPoint won him third place in the Area contest. Marcie Harwood, winner of the seventh grade Public Speaking contest, went on to place third in the Area contest held March 14th in Davidson County. She wowed the crowd with her flawless speech, "Wetlands are Wonderful."

"Wetlands are like huge sponges, soaking up the water in marshes, swamps and bogs with an abundance of plant and animal life."

Tilman Hatley, NSMS

"In NC wetlands are important because about 70% of the species listed as endangered or threatened depend on wetlands for survival." Marcie Harward, NSMS

Area VIII consists of Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Davie, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties. Area contest cash prizes are \$30 for first place, \$20 for second place and \$10 for third place.

The Fork Farm and Stables of Norwood received the 2014 Conservation Farm Family award. The Fork Farm also won first place in the mountain region and second in the state competition.

Terry Blalock, Chairman of the Stanly SWCD, presented Curtis Furr an award for having the highest No-Till Corn Yield in 2014. Furr averaged 242.12 bushels per acre. The variety was Pioneer 1105 YHR. The yield check was done off of a national plot which is a 10 acre field with 1.25 acres harvested. The national plot is more than just a one acre plot which is the standard on a state plot. This award is given by the NC Corn Producers Association.

Jody Smith was recognized as 2014 newly appointed SWCD District supervisor. Jody and his wife Ashley have one child and live in the Ridgecrest community. He joins Board members Terry Blalock, John Pickler, June Mabry, Curtis Furr and Chester Lowder, Board Advisor.



First place winners clockwise from top left: Nichols Melton and Tilman Hatley with NSMS teacher Tommy Thompson, Marcie Harward and Emily Speedling Efird. Stanly County 2014 No-Till Corn winner, Curtis Furr

SOUTHEASTERN SOIL HEALTH FIELD DAY

WHEN

April 29th, 2015
2pm-5pm

WHERE

Fork L Farm Inc.

6523 Roberts Loop Rd
Norwood, NC 28128

MEAL PROVIDED AND DOOR PRIZES



REGISTER ONLINE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/southeastern-soil-health-field-day-tickets-16404765094>

Additional information please contact:

Stanly SWCD at 704-982-5114, Ext 3

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

1

**Rotational grazing
mixed species.**

2

**Soil Health cotton
plot trials.**

3

**Cover crops biology
and diversity.**

4

**Equipment
Comparisons.**

SPONSORS



**Cotton
Incorporated**



State University
and State University
**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**
Empowering People - Preserving Solutions



**STANLY
SOIL & WATER
COOPERATION DISTRICT**



4th Annual POND CLINIC

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Time 9:00 am — 11:00 am

Belk Scout Camp

9408 Belt Road
Midland, NC 28107

Topics Include:

New Pond Construction
Electroshocking Fish Sampling Demonstration
Fishery Management
Aquatic Pest Control
Pond Maintenance
Dry Hydrants for Fire Protection

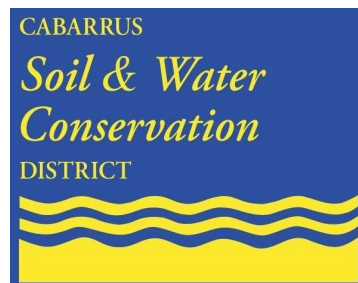
Event Sponsored By:

Cabarrus Soil and Water Conservation District

Co-sponsors:

Foster Lake & Pond Management
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Southern States-Monroe
Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District
Tractor Supply-Concord & Midland
Union Soil & Water Conservation District

**Rain or Shine
Please Bring Your Own Chair!**



Call 704.920.3300 for more details



Farm Service Agency News...



MAL and LDP Policy Changes for Crop Years 2015-2018

The Agricultural Act of 2014 authorized 2014-2018 crop year Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), with a few minor policy changes.

Among the changes, farm-stored MAL collateral transferred to warehouse storage will retain the original loan rate, be allowed to transfer only the outstanding farm-stored quantity with no additional quantity allowed and will no longer require producers to have a paid for measurement service when moving or commingling loan collateral.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

FSA is now accepting requests for 2015 MALs and LDPs for wool as well as LDPs for unshorn pelts. MAL and LDP requests for all other eligible commodities will be accepted after harvest. FSA continues to accept MAL and LDP requests for 2014 crops with upcoming deadlines.

Before MAL repayments and LDP disbursements can be made, producers must meet the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant and member contribution. Additionally, form CCC-902 and CCC-901 must be submitted for the 2014 crop year, if applicable, with a county committee determination and updated subsidiary files. To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form [CCC-633EZ, Page 1](#) on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

The 2014 Farm Bill also establishes payment limitations per individual or entity not to exceed \$125,000 annually on certain commodities for the following program benefits: price loss coverage payments, agriculture risk coverage payments, marketing loan gains (MLGs) and LDPs. These payment limitations do not apply to MAL loan disbursements. Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions were modified by the 2014 Farm Bill, which states that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP.

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, please visit the Stanly County FSA office at 26032 Newt Road, Suite A, Albemarle, [704-982-5114 extension 2](tel:704-982-5114), or FSA's website www.fsa.usda.gov.

Final Availability Dates for Marketing Assistance Loans & Loan Deficiency Payments

- March 31, 2015 - Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat, Sesame Seed
- May 31, 2015 - Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Rice, Safflower Seed, Chickpeas, Soybeans, Sunflower Seed



More FSA News...

USDA Enhances Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the expansion of the Farm Storage and Facility Loan program, which provides low-interest financing to producers. The enhanced program includes 22 new categories of eligible equipment for fruit and vegetable producers.

Producers with small and mid-sized operations, and specialty crop fruit and vegetable growers, now have access to needed capital for a variety of supplies including sorting bins, wash stations and other food safety-related equipment. A new more flexible alternative is also provided for determining storage needs for fruit and vegetable producers, and waivers are available on a case-by-case basis for disaster assistance or insurance coverage if available products are not relevant or feasible for a particular producer.

Additionally, Farm Storage Facility Loan security requirements have been eased for loans up to \$100,000. Previously, all loans in excess of \$50,000 and any loan with little resale value required a promissory note/security agreement and additional security, such as a lien on real estate. Now loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by only a promissory note/security agreement and some loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 will no longer require additional security.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables. Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for fruits and vegetables.

Contact the Stanly County FSA office at 26032 Newt Road, Suite A, Albemarle, [704-982-5114 extension 2](tel:704-982-5114), or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more about FSA programs and loans, including the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

USDA Non-Discrimination Policy *The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Stanly SWCD prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communication at (202) 720-2791. To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (Voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD).*

Envirothon Teams Place 3rd in Area Competition

You may have seen them knee-deep in a stream searching for macro-invertebrates. Maybe they were measuring trees with a Biltmore stick, identifying animal tracks along a trail or kneading a handful of mud to study soil texture. Members of the Creation Explorers 4-H Club have been all over Stanly County this school year learning about the environment. Their work paid off when both the middle school and high school teams placed third in the Southern Piedmont Envirothon. The SPE, sponsored by the twelve Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Area VIII, was held March 17 and 18 at Catawba College in Salisbury.

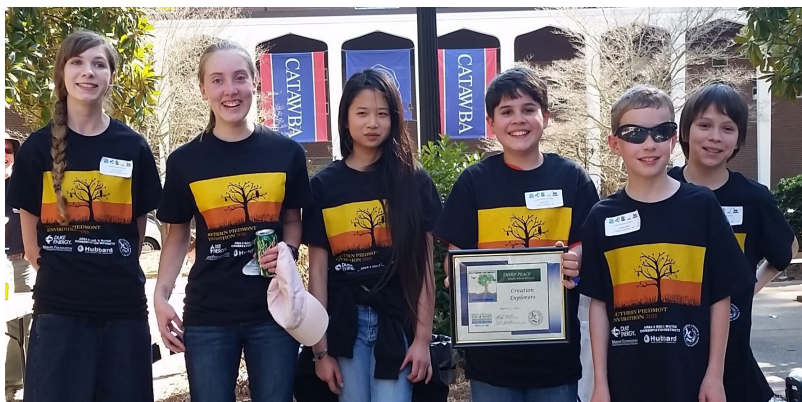
We especially appreciate Stanly Soil and Water Conservation for their support."

Luanne Williams,
Middle School Envirothon Advisor

The all-day competition, held outside the school's Center for the Environment, included presentations related to aquatics, forestry, soil, wildlife and current environmental issues and a test on each of those five subject areas.

Both the Stanly County teams, sponsored by the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District, will advance to the North Carolina State Envirothon on April 24 and 25 at Cedarock Park.

"We couldn't be more pleased with all that these students learned this year, thanks in a large part to local professionals — from wildlife officers and forest rangers to soil specialists and biologists who took their time to work with us and share their expertise," said Luanne Williams, who helps advise the club along with Felicia Martin, Susanne Burns and Angie Stiller. "We studied at the Agri-Civic Center, at Morrow Mountain State Park, Badin Lake, Camp Barnhardt and the quarry at Vulcan Materials to name a few locations. We especially appreciate Stanly Soil and Water Conservation for their support."



Members of the Middle School team and their specialty areas: Amelia Martin, aquatics; Amber Stiller, forestry; Evan DiDio, soil; Ethan Wilkins, wildlife; Dayli Williams, current environmental issues; and Robbie Dales, alternate.

High school team and specialty areas: Seth Stiller, aquatics; Thomas Maness, forestry; Lexie Burns, soil; Lydia Dales, wildlife; and Jaclyn Stiller, current environmental issues.





26032-C Newt Road

Agri-Civic Center

Albemarle, NC 28001













704-986-3059

[www.stanlycountync.gov/
soil-and-water](http://www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water)

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email!! Contact us at
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today to sign up!

Thanks to Our Sponsors

The Stanly SWCD would like to thank the sponsors of this newsletter. Please patronize our sponsors whenever possible. View this newsletter on our website, www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water, or email rlittle@stanlycountync.gov to be put on our email list.

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